

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-6, 8 and 9 will have been amended while claim 7 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. In addition, claims 10-19 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the language of the claims and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering each of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on August 1, 2001. Applicants further wish to thank the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed in the present application on May 2, 2001. Finally, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for acknowledging their Claim of Foreign Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 as well as for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner has objected to the specification based on informalities in the Abstract. By the present Response, Applicants have submitted a new Abstract that is in full compliance with the MPEP and meets all appropriate requirements. Accordingly, the objection to the specification based on informalities in the Abstract should be withdrawn.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-9 because of a number of enumerated informalities. By the present Response, Applicants have

amended claims 1, 5 and 8 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have further amended claim 2 to clarify the nature of the signal referenced therein. Claim 7 has been cancelled thus rendering the objection to the language thereof moot.

Accordingly, in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that they have overcome each of the objections enumerated by the Examiner with respect to the language of the pending claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested in due course.

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for his indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 1-9. In this regard, Applicants note that they have additionally amended the language of each of the pending claims in order to eliminate "means-plus-function" and similar terminology as well as to clarify the recitations thereof without significantly changing the scope of the claims and without narrowing the claims in any significant manner. The amendments to the claims have been made solely in order to clarify the recitations of the claims and to define the features thereof with clarity, specificity and proper U.S. grammar, syntax and language. Accordingly, confirmation of the allowability of claims 1-6, 8 and 9 and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application is respectfully requested in due course.

Applicants note that the Examiner has closed prosecution on the merits in the present application in accordance with Ex parte Quayle. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the newly submitted claims is appropriate and proper and is thus respectfully requested. In particular, Applicants are merely submitting dependent claims to depend from already indicated to be allowable independent claims.

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In this regard, claims 10-14 which depend from indicated to be allowable claim 8 substantially correspond to previously pending claims 2-6 which depended from claim 1. Similarly, claims 15-19, which depend from allowable claim 9, also correspond to the subject matter recited in previously pending claims 2-6.

Accordingly, submission of these claims raises no new issues requiring further consideration or search, does not raise the question of new matter and is merely being submitted to provide Applicants with the scope of coverage to which they are entitled.

Applicants further note that the Ex parte Quayle action in the present application is a first action on the merits in the present application and accordingly, respectfully request consideration and entry of the present amendment.

Applicants further note the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the above-noted Official Action. In this regard, while Applicants do not necessarily disagree with the features enumerated by the Examiner in his Statement of Reasons for indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants further note that each of the claims in the present application sets forth a particular combination of features and that the patentability of each claim is thus also based upon the totality of the specific and particular features recited in each such claim. Accordingly, the reasons for allowability should not be limited to those enumerated by the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have submitted a new Abstract and have amended each of the claims in the present application. Applicants have further submitted several additional dependent claims to afford them the scope of protection to which they are entitled.

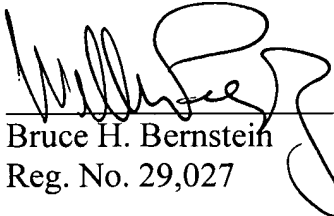
In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and in view of Applicants amendments overcoming the objections set forth by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application has been set forth and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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November 29, 2004
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